



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

April 28, 2008

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
888 First St., N.E. Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Docket Nos: CP07-398-001, CP07-401-000

Dear Ms. Bose:

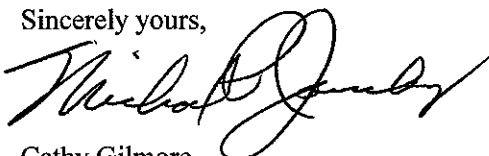
In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the construction and operation of the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Gulf Crossing Pipeline Company, LLC (Gulf Crossing) and Gulf South Pipeline Company, L.P. (Gulf South) under the above referenced Dockets. The project would be located in various counties and parishes in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

In general, EPA Region 4 "Air" comments were not responded to. As discussed in our attached "Air" comments, Region 4 recommends that the omitted "Air" comments on the DEIS be in the FERC Record of Decision or equivalent (FERC Final Order). In contrast, FERC responses to our "EJ" comments were reasonable (we appreciate FERC's effort between the DEIS and FEIS), although a portion of those comments in the Region 6 letter were also cut off. Region 4 additional comments are enclosed.

Editorially, we note that the Table of Contents of the FEIS indicates that the responses to EPA and other public comments were in Appendix J. However, Appendix J noted that the responses were available on the enclosed CD-ROM. We suggest that future FERC FEISs be more complete and stand-alone like in the past. While we support streamlining the NEPA process where it is reasonable, not all portions of the public necessarily have access to PCs to read CDs and therefore would have difficulty in reviewing FERC's responses to their or agency comments.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. If you have any questions please contact Mike Jansky at 214-665-7451 or at jansky.michael@epa.gov for assistance.

Sincerely yours,

for 
Cathy Gilmore
Chief, Office of Planning
and Coordination

Enclosures

To: Chris Hoberg – EPA Region 4 NEPA Group

From: Jim Little – EPA Region 4 Air Permits Section

Subj: Gulf Crossing Project, Final EIS

Date: April 1, 2008

I reviewed FERC's final EIS (FEIS) for the Gulf Crossing Project to assess the extent to which Region 4's comments on the draft EIS air quality section were addressed.

Region 4's comments on air quality were included in the letter from Region 6 to FERC dated December 11, 2007. Here are my findings:

1. Appendix J of the FEIS contains the letter from Region 6 and FERC's responses to the comments in the letter. Unfortunately, two pages of the Region 6 letter were omitted from the copy of the letter in Appendix J, and there are no responses from FERC to the comments on these missing pages. The missing pages contained all of the comments on air quality. Therefore, there are no FERC responses in FEIS Appendix J to EPA's air quality comments.
2. I reviewed Section 3.11.1 ("Air Quality") of the FEIS to see if Region 4's air quality comments were used in preparing the FEIS even if not specifically addressed in Appendix J. There is no indication that any of EPA's air quality comments were used.

Given these findings, I recommend that Region 6 re-submit EPA's air quality comments to FERC.

Comments on Air Quality Sections of Gulf Crossing Project Draft EIS

Jim Little

11/30/07

- FERC presents national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) modeling results in Table 3.11.1-8 (page 3-137) for the Harrisville compressor station. Results are presented for PM_{2.5}, but no results are presented for PM₁₀ even though there is a PM₁₀ NAAQS as listed in Table 3.11.1-1 (page 3-127). NAAQS modeling results for PM₁₀ should be provided.
- On page 3-128, FERC states that "AQCRs are categorized as Class I, Class II, or Class III" with reference to prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) area classifications. These classifications are not made on the basis of AQCR boundaries. We recommend changing the sentence to read "Areas of the U.S. are categorized as"
- On page 3-128 (continuing to page 3-129), FERC states the following: "Special analysis may be done for any sources within 100 kilometers (62 miles) of any Class I area. There are no Class I areas located within 62 miles of any of the proposed compressor station locations." The concept of an official 100-km cutoff distance from PSD Class I areas is not correct. The distance at which a Class I area impact analysis may be required depends on the types and quantities of the pollutants emitted from a project and on the air quality related values of the specific Class I areas that could be potentially affected. In some cases, project impacts on a Class I area must be assessed even at distances much greater than 100 km. We recommend deleting the two sentences quoted above and replacing them with the following: "Given the types and quantities of the emissions from the compressor stations involved in the proposed project and the distance to the nearest Class I area, no adverse impacts on Class I areas is expected."
- We recommend replacing the first sentence of the paragraph on page 3-128 beginning "None of the new facilities or additions to existing facilities" The recommended replacement is as follows: "The major source emissions threshold for PSD permitting purposes is 100 tpy or 250 tpy of any regulated NSR pollutant depending on source category. The PSD major source threshold for the facilities in this project is 250 tpy. None of the new facilities or modified existing facilities would exceed emissions of 250 tpy of any regulated NSR pollutant."
- Related to its conclusion on page 3-128 that PSD permitting is not applicable to the modification of the Harrisville compressor station, no modeling was performed to assess compliance with PSD increments. However, even if the existing Harrisville compressor station is not a PSD major source and the proposed change to the station is not a PSD major modification in and of itself, the proposed emissions increases could still consume PSD increments. Increment consumption occurs for new minor sources and minor modifications if the minor source baseline date has been established prior to the construction of the new minor source or minor modification. For completeness sake, FERC might wish to compare modeling results for Harrisville NO_x emissions increases to the PSD Class II increment for NO₂. (Emissions increase for SO₂ and PM₁₀ are probably low enough that modeling is unnecessary.) This is merely a suggestion. FERC can use its discretion in deciding what to do with the suggestion.
- On page 3-133, FERC discusses title V permitting and states that the Harrisville compressor station "would require" a title V permit. However, according to the information in this paragraph and in Table 3.11.1-2 (page 3-129), emissions from the existing station already exceed the major source thresholds requiring a title V permit. Has a title V permit already been issued for the Harrisville compressor station? If so, then the proposed additional emissions units (especially the turbines) will most likely trigger the need for a title V permit modification. We have a related question that applies to the first paragraph on page 3-134 in which FERC states that the "Harrisville Compressor Station modification will be permitted with MDEQ as a revision to a new major source." [Emphasis added.] Did FERC mean a revision to an existing major source?

Environmental Justice: Gulf Crossings Final Environmental Impact Statement Comments

Overall, the FEIS was responsive to our DEIS comments regarding potential environmental justice considerations. EPA has no additional comments on the FEIS, but we continue to reiterate the importance of modifying existing public involvement strategies to ensure that the needs of communities with potential EJ concerns are adequately identified and addressed. EPA appreciates the efforts taken to modify the FEIS and to include mitigation measures that minimize potential noise impacts to nearby residents during construction.

Response Review

1. The beginnings of the EPA's EJ comments are not included in appendix J-5. EPA's EJ comments do not correspond with the response (FA 1-8).
2. FA 1-9 Updated Section 3.9 to include consideration of potential EJ issues – FERC updated section substantially.
3. FA 1-10 FERC added additional information.
4. FA 1-11 Utility Corridor – confusing response
5. FA 1-12 –See Section 4.4. Reviewed section and FERC have added several new sections which describe efforts to avoid natural and residential impacts
6. FA 1-13 Section 3.11.2. for Noise Sensitive Areas – Reviewed noise section and FERC proposed mitigation and monitoring to ensure minimal impacts to noise sensitive sites.